THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Temporary stoppage of 4055/4056 Brahamputra Mail has been provided at Sultanganj from 14.8.96 to 31.8.96.

Bomb Blast

3162. SHRI JAGATVIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether bomb was blasted in bogie No. 830 C/A of N.E. Express (Gauhati-Delhi) on May 16, 1996;

(b) if so, any enquiry was conducted to find out the motives behind the bomb blast;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to avoid such situation in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (d). According to information available, an explosion took place in a coach attached to 5621 Up NE Express near East Cabin, Aligarh on 16.5.1996 at about 1845 hrs. Preliminary enquiries indicate that the explosion was probably caused by a hand grenade carried by a BSF personnel and was accidental in nature. GRP, Aligarh has registered a case under sections 304, 324 IPC, 3 Explosive Act and 151 Railway Act. Further enquiries are in progress.

[Translation]

Repairing and Manufacturing of Coaches

3163. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether work regarding the repairing of coaches and manufacturing of wagons in Izzatnagar factory is in progress;

(b) if so, the details of work undertaken during the last three years;

(c) whether the strength of the employees and progress of work is constantly declining in the said factory;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and whether Government have decided to close down this factory; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The work undertaken in Izzatnagar workshop is of repair of M.G. wagons and coaches. This workshop is not undertaking wagon manufacture.

(b) Details of work undertaken for last three year :-

	93-94	94-95	95-96
POH			
(i) Wagon (MG)	1640	1200	1170
(ii) Coaches (MG)	1380	1390	1080

(c) and (d). The reduction in the number of employees is to the extent of normal retirements in Izzatnagar workshop and lower arising of M.G. stock POH workload due to gauge conversion. However, to compensate this, manufacture of M.G. DMUs and Rail Buses are being undertaken. There is no plan, at present, to close down this workshop.

(e) Does not arise.

Extension of Shatabdi Express

3164. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any proposal for extension of New Delhi-Chandigarh bound Shatabdi Express upto Kalka;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be extended in view of the promotion of Tourism; and

(c) the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). Some representations were received in this regard. These were examined but not found feasible due to operational and resources constraints.

[English]

Oil Spill in Haldi River

3165. SHRI. MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge quantity of diesel leaked from a tanker into the Haldi river in West Bengal, in May, 1996 ;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the causes of the oil leak;

(c) the extent to which this oil spill has endangered the flora and fauna of the Haldi river;

(d) whether any inquiry has been held to fix responsibility for the negligence in the matter;

(e) if so, the findings thereof; and

(f) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (c). There was an incident of spillage of about 358 Kilolitres of high-speed diesel oil

from barge "Prem Tista" chartered by the Indian Oil Corporation at barge jetty No. 1 during the early hours of 31.5.96. The spill occurred due to overflow of tanks in the barge. Loading of petroleum products at the existing two barge jetties of Haldia Dock complex is controlled and operated by the Indian Oil Corporation (Marketing Division). The spill was controlled by the Calcutta Port Trust and the Indian Oil Corporation by using chemical disprsants. The immediate impact of the oil spillage on the flora and fauna could not be ascertained during investigation.

(d) and (e). The State Board has enquired into the matter and found that the spill occurred due to a lapse in monitoring during loading operations. A high level Committee constituted by the Indian Oil Corporation, had established that the spillage had occurred because of the negligence of the barge crew.

(f) The West Bengal Pollution Control Board has filed a case against the management of the Indian Oil Corporation on 17.6.96 under Section 15 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. However, the Indian Oil Corporation has taken steps for monitoring the loading operations closely from the shore to the barge and is also training the personnel undertaking the barge operations.

Providing of Sub-Gates at Indo-Bangladesh Border

3166. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any requests have been received by the Government from the villagers of District Coochbehar (W.B.) for providing sub-gates at Indo-Bangladesh Border during 1995-96;

(b) if so, the action taken so far, in the matter; and

(c) the time by which the sub-gates are likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Cashew Corporation of India

3167. SHRI N.K. PREM CHANDRAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to re-constitute the Cashew Corporation of India to introduce quota system for the distribution of raw cashewnuts; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b). As per available information, the Cashew Corporation of India (CCI), a subsidiary of State Trading Corporation of India, was established in 1970 for importing and distributing raw cashewnuts. After decanalisation and placing cashew on OGL for imports, the Cashew Corporation of India has since been wound up. There is no question at present under consideration of the Government of India to revive the CCI.

[Translation]

Construction of Nasik-Sinnar Shirdi Rail line

3168. SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to construct a new rail line on the route of Nasik-Sinnar-Puntamba; and

(b) if so, the time by which the same would be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : No, Sir. However, a Survey conducted recently for a new BG line from Nasik to Kopargaon, via Sinnar and Shirdi has revealed the proposed line to be unremunerative.

(b) Does not arise.

Construction of Sewerage Treatment Plant at Noida

3169. SHRI RAM SAGAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Japanese Government had extended the aid of Rs. 200 crore for the construction of a sewerage treatment plant at Noida in Uttar Pradesh under the Yamuna Action Plan sanctioned in 1994;

(b) if so, whether the aid has been utilised for the purpose for which it was given;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the required land for the construction of Sewerage Treatment Plant has not yet been provided so far;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to get the land allotted and start the construction work without any further delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (e). Assistance of 17.77 billion Yen (present value approximately Rs. 586 crores) from the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund of Government of Japan is available for implementation of the Yamuna Action Plan. Out of this, the estimated cost of the two sewage treatment plants to be constructed at Noida in U.P. is Rs. 17.71 crores. The Detailed Project Reports for these two schemes have been prepared by the nodal executing agency and are expected to be received shortly through the Government of U.P.